

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A tracheostomy device including a tubular member (~~10, 10', 10''~~) adapted to provide a gas passage into the trachea (2) through an opening (4) in neck tissues (5) and an external retainer (13) for retaining the tubular member with the external surface (7) of the neck adjacent the opening (4), ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the patient end (11) of the tubular member (~~10, 10', 10''~~) terminates adjacent the internal end of the opening (4), and that the device includes an internal retainer (~~14, 45, 59, 61~~) for retaining the tubular member with the internal surface (6) of the trachea adjacent the opening.
2. (Currently Amended) A tracheostomy device according to Claim 1, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the device includes a seal (~~3, 60~~) for substantially sealing the trachea above the opening (4) into the trachea.
3. (Currently Amended) A tracheostomy device according to Claim 2, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the seal (~~3, 60~~) includes a fluid passage (34) opening at one end above the seal and extending out of the trachea via the opening (4).
4. (Currently Amended) A tracheostomy device according to Claim 3, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the fluid passage (34) is a suction passage.
5. (Currently Amended) A tracheostomy device according to ~~any one of Claims 2 to 4~~ Claim 2, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the seal (~~3, 60~~) includes a deformable annular ring (~~30, 60~~) arranged to engage the surface (6) of the trachea (2).
6. (Currently Amended) A tracheostomy device according to Claim 5, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the annular ring (~~30, 60~~) is inflatable.

7. (Currently Amended) A tracheostomy device according to Claim 5, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the annular ring (30, 60) includes a resilient foam.

8. (Currently Amended) A tracheostomy device according to ~~any one of Claims 5 to 7~~ Claim 5, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the seal (3) includes a web (34) extending across the ring (30).

9. (Currently Amended) A tracheostomy device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the external retainer is a flange (13) and that the internal retainer is a displaceable member (14, 45).

10. (Currently Amended) A tracheostomy device according to Claim 9, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the displaceable member is a hinged tab (14), and that the tab is connected with a cord (18) by which the tab can be displaced.

Respectfully submitted,



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